



DA987  
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Lady Foster

With the kindest regards of

Everlasting Affection.

Nov: 1. 1874.







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Welcome to the alder plain,  
English, Scotch, or Irishman ;  
Welcome of high or low degree,  
Gentle or simple an ye be ;



Welcome to the lake whose shore  
Is fringed with rushes as of yore ;  
Welcome, and take this book with thee,  
A guide to what there is to see.

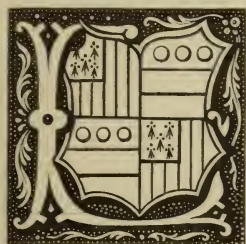
SECOND EDITION.

*London : privately printed, 1869.*





## LOUGH FEA.



LOUGH FEA, the Lake of the  
Rushes, so called from the  
margin of rushes which fringe  
its shores, gives name to the  
manorial residence of the Shir-

ley Family near the town of Carrickmacross,  
in the Barony of Farney and County of  
Monaghan.

The house is built on a rising ground,  
surrounded by well-wooded hills, in the Town-  
land of Duehatty, or "The black town," not  
far from a place of some antiquity which  
had been in former times the seat of a  
gentleman's family, who held their lands

*Farney, the  
Country of Alder  
Trees.*

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under the Shirley Family, as "Middlemen," a position no longer to be found on the Shirley Estate.

The building was begun by the late Evelyn John Shirley, Esq. in the year 1825. Its style is Elizabethan, selected as well-suited to the surrounding scenery, and to an estate granted by Queen Elizabeth to Walter Devereux, the first Earl of Essex, in the year 1576, the Husband of her Cousin Lettice Knollys.

Walter, Earl of Essex, married Lettice, daughter of Sir Francis Knollys, by Katherine, daughter of William, Lord Hunston, and Mary Boleyn, daughter of Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire, sister of Queen Anne, the mother of Queen Elizabeth.

Lough Fea House is erected entirely of free-stone found on the Estate, and something after the manner of a College; on the right is the Great Hall, on the left the Chapel, in front the principal living rooms; over the entrance porch are the arms of Shirley with the quarterings of Bassett of Drayton, Braose, Devereux, Plantagenet, and Ferrers, and the date 1838.

ENTRANCE HALL.

The interior is divided by screens with painted glaſs representing the Horſeſhoe (the badge of the Ferrers Family), and ſhields with the arms and quarterings of Shirley and Devereux.

Here are two large Pictures.

1. A Princeſs receiving a preſent from Peaſants, by *Ferdinand Bol*.
2. A youthful Prince, and Attendant with Horſes and Dogs, by old *Cuyp*.

STAIRCASE.

On the ſtaircaſe are ſeveral Pictures.

1. Swans diſturbed by a dog, by *Cradock*; and three fine whole lengths, (2, 3, 4,) by *Ferriſ*, of the Lady Frances Shirley, Lady Mary Tryon, and Lady Anne Furneſe, three of the daughters of the firſt Earl Ferrers. Lady Frances, a celebrated beauty of the Court of George I. and II., is dreſſed in the Turkiſh coſtume introduced into England by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu.

## DINING ROOM.

The ceiling of the Dining Room is ornamented with the initials E. I. S. and the Horseshoe badge. Here are the following Portraits :—

1. Walter Devereux, first Earl of Essex, copied, in the year 1858, from the original belonging to Lord Bagot at Blithfield: half length in armour.
2. Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex, the unfortunate favourite of Queen Elizabeth, and son of the first Earl: whole length in armour, by *Mireveldt*.

On this curious portrait is the following inscription :—

“ ROBERT DEVEREUX EARLE OF  
ESSEX EARLE MARSHALL OF ENGLAND  
AND LORD DEPUTIE OF IRELAND.  
VISCOUNT HEREFORD BARON FERRERS  
OF CHARTLEY, LORD BOUCHIER AND  
LOVAINE: MASTER OF THE HORSE  
AND GROOME TO QUEEN ELI-  
ZABETH. KNIGHT OF THE GARTER:

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7

ONE OF HER MAJESTIES PRIVY COUN-  
SELL, AND CHANCELLOR OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE."

A jewel hangs from his neck representing the  
Queen encircled by true lover's knots.

3. Queen Elizabeth, whole length, by *Mereveldt*,  
with the following legend: "NON SINE SOLE  
IRIS."
- 4, 5. Heads of James I. and his Queen, Anne of  
Denmark, by *Pourbus*.
- 6, 7. William III. and the Earl of Portland, K.G.  
in ovals after *Netscher*.

### LIBRARY.

The ceiling is taken from that of "The  
Brown Room" at Wiston in Suffex, the ancient  
seat of the Shirleys of that place.

Above the fire-place is a curious Flemish  
carving, representing the Passion of our  
Blessed Saviour, of the latter part of the fif-  
teenth century.

Here are Portraits of the late and present  
Mr. Shirley; the former a copy, by Mr.

Who were a  
younger branch  
of the Shirleys  
of Eatington.

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Mornevick, of the original Picture at Eatington, painted by the elder Pickerfgill in 1822, and the latter by Mr. Catterfon Smith, executed in 1868.

In this Room is preserved a curious and valuable collection of books, relating to the history and antiquities of Ireland, collected by the present Mr. Shirley.

## SOUTH ROOM.

The chimney-piece is made from the marble and alabaster found on the estate.

## Pictures :—

1. Charles I. in armour, by old *Stone*, a fine whole length.
2. The Raifing of Lazarus, by *Langetti*.
- 3, 4. Two Battle pieces, by *Borgognone*.
5. Robert Shirley, Lord Ferrers of Chartley, afterwards Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth, painted in the Robes which he wore at the Coronation of James II. in 1685, and given to Mr. Shirley by the Dowager Duchess of Sforza in 1868. It was formerly at Ratcliffe

Formerly in  
Lord Onflow's  
collection.

Hall, in Leicestershire, and is ascribed to *Kneller*.

WITHDRAWING ROOM.

The windows bear the royal cipher of Queen Elizabeth and that of her favourite the Earl of Effex. The cornice is ornamented with the Rose of England and the knot which was the badge of the Bouchiers, Earls of Effex, ancestors of the Devereux's. There are the following among other Pictures :—

- 1, 2. Two Landscapes, a coast scene with ships, and a storm and shipwreck, by *Brooking*.
3. An Archery Party, by *Teniers*.
4. Spanish Peasants gambling and smoking, by *Velasquez*.
5. A Wood scene with Gypsies, by *Morland*.
6. A Portrait of the Admirable Crichton, by *Abraham Janssens*, (oval,) painted in 1604.
7. A curious Picture, said to represent Charles II. in a coach on the shore of Scheveling, by *Vander Poel*.
8. A small Landscape with oriental figures and horses, by *Adrian Vandervelde*.

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## THE GREAT HALL

Is connected with the Drawing Room by a conservatory, it is seventy-five feet in length by thirty-three, its height is also thirty-three feet. In the spandrils of the door of entrance is the date 1841. There are two chimney-pieces of free-stone, on one of them is the motto of the good Bishop Hacket, "SERVE GOD AND BE CHEERFUL." Above the panelling which surrounds the room, and which bears the shields of Shirley and Devereux alternately, are the following whole length Portraits :—

1. A Flemish General in armour, by *Vander Helst*, a fine picture, inscribed with the date 1645.
2. Charles I. on horseback, (*Spanish School.*)
3. Sir Robert Needham, father of the first Viscount Kilmorey, by *C. Janffens.*
4. Oliver Cromwell in armour, by *Walker.*
5. General Fleetwood in armour, by *Walker.*
6. A Dutch Gentleman, by *Mytens.*
7. Prince Rupert in the Robes of the Garter, by *Sir Peter Lely.*

8. James I. on horseback. (*School of Van Dyck.*)
9. James, Duke of York, afterwards James II. in the Robes of the Garter, by *Sir Peter Lely.*
10. William III. in Coronation Robes, by *Sir Godfrey Kneller.*

In the gallery which flanks the Great Hall are these Pictures :—

1. Marshal Turenne sleeping in the snow, by *C. Le Beu.*

[This incident, related in the Life of Turenne, happened in 1673, in the Campaign against the Elector of Brandenburg.]

2. George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, in the Robes of the Garter. (*School of Sir Peter Lely.*) This and the portraits of Prince Rupert, and James, Duke of York, were formerly in the collection of pictures of Knights of the Garter belonging to the Duke of St. Albans at Windsor ; they afterwards descended by family connexion to Mr. Drummond of Stanmore, near London, at whose sale they were purchased by the late Mr. Shirley.
3. Queen Anne in robes, by *Sir Godfrey Kneller.*
4. Children with dogs, in a Landscape, by *Hoeffins.*

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The windows are ornamented with coats of arms in illustration of the history of the Barony of Farney ; that at the north-west corner at the upper end of the Hall bears the arms of the first proprietors of the Barony after the conquest of Ireland by Henry II.

1. Argent, two bars, a canton conjoined, azure.  
     " Richard Pipard, Lord of Farney, A.D.  
     1197."
2. Party per pale, azure and or, a fess, counter-  
     changed.  
     " Walter de Cusack, Lord of Farney, A. D.  
     1317."
3. Argent, three piles, wavy, gules.  
     " Roger Gernon, Lord of Farney, A. D.  
     1371.
4. Argent, an ostrich, fable, in its mouth a horse-  
     shoe, or.  
     " Ardgall McMahon, Lord of Oriel, ob.  
     A. D. 1415."
5. Azure, a fish, naiant, argent, on a chief wavy of  
     the second, a dexter hand, coupé, gules.  
     " Shane O'Neil, Lord of Ulster, ob. 1567."

6. Argent, a fess, gules, in chief three torteaux's.

“Walter, Earl of Effex, Lord of Farney,  
A. D. 1576.”

The adjoining window shows the descent of the Barony of Farney to the families of Thynne and Shirley.

1. Quarterly 1 and 4, or, six fleurs-de-lis, azure, on a pile, gules, three lions of England, 2 and 3, gules, a pair of wings conjoined, or, impaling Devereux.

“Sir W. Seymour, Bart. wedded the Lady Frances Devereux, anno. 1616.”

2. Paly of six, or, and azure, a quarter, ermine, impaling Devereux.

“Sir Henry Shirley, Bart. wedded the Lady Dorothy Devereux, anno. 1615.”

3. Quarterly 1 and 4, barry of ten, or, and sable, 2 and 3, argent, a lion rampant, gules.

“Tho. Thynne, Lord Viscount Weymouth, ob. 1714.”

4. Shirley quartering Devereux.

“Robert Shirley, Earl Ferrers, ob. 1717.”

5. Barry of six, gules, semée of crosses patée, or; and ermine, a quarter of the second.

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“John Hadzar, Farmer of Magherneclloy,  
1641.”

6. Or, an inescutcheon, fable, within an orle of martlets of the second.

“Brownlow, farmer of Magherneclloy, 1692.”

The two last coats refer to “Hadzar’s Fee Farm of Magherneclloy,” held by the Brownlow Family from the heirs of the Earl of Essex.

The above shields are placed within wreaths alternately vert and purpure, set with the Rose of England and the Shamrock of Ireland.

The two windows at the south end of the Hall bear the arms of the noblemen and gentlemen who accompanied Walter, Earl of Essex, in his first attempt against the rebels of Ulster, in 1573.

1. Argent, a fess, gules, in chief three torteaux’s.

“Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex, ob. 1576.”

2. Or, a pile engrailed, fable.

“Sir Edward Waterhouse, Knight, ob. 1591.”

3. Gules, a chevron between 3 crosses bottonnée  
or.  
“Robert Rich, Lord Rich, of Leize, ob.  
1581.”
4. Azure, semée of crosses-crosslets, three cinquefoils,  
argent.  
“John Darcy, Lord Darcy, ob. 1587.”
5. Quarterly, 1 and 4, argent, 2 and 3, gules, a fret,  
or, over all a fess, azure.  
“William and John Norreys, sons of Henry,  
Lord Norreys.”
6. Argent, on a bend, fable, three roses of the field.  
“Michael and John Carey, sons of Henry,  
Lord Hunfdon.”
7. Or, a gryphon segreant, fable.  
“William Morgan, of Penycoid, Esq.”
8. Argent, a chevron engrailed, gules, between three  
boars’ heads coupéd, fable.  
“Francis Agard, Esq.”
9. Argent, a cross engrailed between four water-  
bougets, fable.  
“Ralph Bouchier.”
10. Azure, semée of crosses-crosslets, a cross, moline  
voided, or.  
“Henry Knollys.”
11. Or, three lions passant, fable.  
“Sir Peter Carew, ob. 1575.”

He died in 1578.

12. Gules, a chevron ermine, between ten crosses patée, argent.

“Sir Edward Berkeley.”

These shields are placed within wreaths bearing the Red and White Rose of England, surmounted by the Shamrock of Ireland, the Horseshoe badge of Ferrers, (the Earl of Essex being Lord Ferrers of Chartley), and the letters S. X.

The twelve shields similarly ornamented, on the two windows at the north end of the Hall, illustrate the expedition of Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex, against Tyrone; and give the arms of some of the principal personages who accompanied him at his celebrated interview with that chieftain at the Ford of Aclint on the borders of Farney, in 1599.

1. Argent, a fess, gules, in chief three torteaux's.

“Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, ob. 1600.”

2. Azure, a cross, or, between four hawks, argent.

“Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, ob. 1624.”

3. Argent, a cross, engrailed, gules, between four water-bougets, fable.  
    "Sir George Bouchier, Knight, ob. 1605."
4. Gules, two swords in saltier, argent, hilts and pomels, or, between four roses of the second.  
    "Sir Christopher St. Laurence, Knight, ob. 1619."
5. Azure, fretty argent, a chief, or.  
    "Sir Warham St. Ledger, Knight, ob. 1600."
6. Argent, on a bend, gules, cotised, fable, three pair of wings conjoined of the first.  
    "Sir Edward Wingfield, Knight, ob. 1633."
7. Gules, a chevron between three mullets, or.  
    "Sir Henry Danvers, Knight, ob. 1643."
8. Barry of six, or and azure.  
    "Sir William Constable, Knight, ob. 1654."
9. Argent, a saltier engrailed, fable, a martlet for difference.  
    "Sir Henry Wotton, Knight, ob. 1639."
10. Chequy, or and azure, on a canton, gules, a lion rampant, argent.  
    "Sir William Warren, Knight."
11. Gules, three cinquefoils, argent.  
    "Sir Oliver Lambert, Knight, ob. 1618."
12. Sable, a fret, argent.  
    "Sir John Harington, Knight, ob. 1612."

The great bay window in the centre of the Hall contains the Pedigree of the Shirley Family, with the following arms and inscriptions ; the wreaths within which the shields are placed, bear the Red and White Rose of England, alternately with the Horseshoe of Ferrers.

Etindon, now  
Eatington, in  
Warwickshire,  
still the seat of  
the family in  
England.

1. Paly of fix, or and fable. (Shirley ancient.)  
 "Safualo, Lord of Etindon, before the Norman Conquest, anno 1066, had issue Fulcher."
2. Paly of fix, or and azure, a quarter, ermine. (Shirley modern.)  
 "Sewallis de Syrle, anno 1192, son of Fulcher, wedded Maud Ridel, and had issue, Henry."
3. Shirley, ancient, impaling, azure, three bars gemelles and a chief, or.  
 "Sir Sewal de Etindon, son of Henry, wedded Isabel Meyfnil, living anno 1231."
4. Shirley, modern, impaling, argent, on a chevron, fable, an annulet, or.  
 "Sir James de Shirley, son of Sewal, wedded Agnes Walton, living anno 1278."

5. Shirley, ancient, impaling, gules, a chevron, argent, between three garbs, or.

“Sir Ralph Shirley, son of James, wedded Margaret Waldersthef, ob. anno 1327.”

6. Shirley, impaling, or, three piles, gules, and a quarter, ermine.

“Sir Thomas Shirley, son of Ralph, wedded Isabel Bassett, dead anno 1363.”

7. Shirley, impaling, azure, semée of cross-crosslets, or, a lion rampant of the second, crowned, gules.

“Sir Hugh Shirley, son of Thomas, wedded Beatrix Braose, ob. anno 1403.”

8. Shirley, impaling, or, three piles, gules, on a quarter, ermine, a gryphon segreant, fable.

“Sir Ralph Shirley, son of Hugh, wedded Joan Bassett of Brailesford, ob. anno, 1443.”

9. Shirley, impaling, vair, argent and fable, a quarter, gules.

“Ralph Shirley, son of Ralph, wedded Margaret Staunton, ob. anno 1466.”

10. Shirley, impaling, or, two bars, gules, the upper one charged with two water-bougets, the lower with one water-bouget, argent.

“John Shirley, son of Ralph, wedded Elianor Willoughby, ob. anno 1485.”

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11. Shirley, impaling, argent, a chevron between three garbs, gules.

“Sir Ralph Shirley, son of John, wedded Joan Sheffield, ob. anno 1517.”

12. Shirley, impaling, azure, three stirrups with their leathers, or.

“Francis Shirley, son of Ralph, wedded Dorothy Gifford, ob. anno 1571.”

13. Shirley, impaling, argent, three wolves passant in pale, fable, langued gules.

“John Shirley, son of Francis, wedded Jane Lovett, ob. anno 1570.”

14. Shirley, impaling, gules, a chevron between ten crosses, patée, argent.

“Sir George Shirley, son of John, wedded Frances Berkeley, ob. anno 1622.”

15. Shirley, impaling, argent, a fess gules, in chief three torteaux's.

“Sir Henry Shirley, son of George, wedded Dorothy Devereux, ob. anno 1633.”

16. Shirley, impaling, ermine, on a chief, gules, three bezants.

“Sir Robert Shirley, son of Henry, wedded Katherine Okeover, ob. anno 1656.”

17. Shirley, impaling, argent, a chevron between three gryphons, fable, a crescent for difference, gules.

“ Robert Shirley, Earl Ferrers, son of Robert, wedded Selina Finch, ob. anno 1717.”

18. Shirley, impaling, vert, a fess, or, charged with three roses, gules, feeded proper, between three horses, argent.

“ George Shirley, son of Robert, wedded Mary Sturt, ob. anno 1787.”

19. Shirley, impaling, argent, three mullets, sable, pierced of the field.

“ Evelyn Shirley, son of George, wedded Phillis Wollaston, ob. anno 1810.”

20. Shirley, impaling, quarterly, ermine and gules.

“ Evelyn John Shirley, son of Evelyn, wedded Eliza Stanhope, now living, anno 1843.”

21. Shirley, impaling, gules, a fess, and in chief two pelicans, or, vulning themselves, proper.

“ Evelyn Philip Shirley, son of Evelyn John, wedded Clara Lechmere, now living, anno 1843.”

Among the Irish antiquities preserved in this Hall may be mentioned a very large caldron, or vessel, made of six plates of beaten bronze, riveted together with pins, and ornamented with sharp points of the same metal,

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sixty inches in circumference at the widest part, by eleven and a half in height, which was discovered twelve feet below the surface of the Bog of Lifdromturk in the Barony of Farney, in the year 1834. Here also may be seen the standards of the Farney yeomanry of 1798.

## THE CHAPEL.

In the spandrils of the arch which leads to the Chapel is the motto, “*Omne bonum*”—“*Dei donum*,” and above, the coat of Shirley quartering Devereux, and the date 1840.

In the vestibule is a curious piece of Flemish carving of fifteenth century work, representing the “Wise men of the East,” travelling to Bethlehem at the birth of our Lord. Above the altar is the head of our Saviour, admirably carved and supported by cherubs, the floor beneath is in alternate squares of black bog oak and common oak : the desk of the pulpit is supported by an angel well carved in oak.

On the upper part of the east window appears these words, "*Gloria in excelsis Deo*," and the sacred monogram "*I.H.S.*" and "*mercy.*"

The west window contains :—

1. The Arms of Queen Elizabeth.
2. Those of Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex, K. G. and Lettice Knollys, his wife (afterwards Countess of Leicester.)
3. Of Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex, K. G. the favourite of Elizabeth, and Frances Walsingham his wife.
4. Of King James I.
5. Of Robert Devereux, third Earl of Essex, K. G. and Frances Howard his wife.
6. Of Sir Henry Shirley, Baronet, and Lady Dorothy Devereux his wife, sister of the last Earl of Essex.
7. Of Sir Robert Shirley, Baronet, and Katherine Okeover his wife.
8. Of Robert Shirley, first Earl Ferrers, and Selina Finch his Countess.

Above is the motto, "*Omne bonum Dei donum*," and these dates, 1576, when the Estate was granted by Queen Elizabeth, and

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1624, when it was confirmed by King James I. On a brass plate on the northern side of this Chapel is the following inscription :—

“ In the vault of his ancestors at Lower Easington, in the County of Warwick, are interred the remains of Evelyn John Shirley, Esq. (son of Evelyn, grandson of George, and great grandson of Robert Shirley, first Earl Ferrers) for many years Knight of the Shire for the counties of Monaghan and Warwick, who departed this life in this House of Lough Fea, which he built from the foundations among the woods which he planted, on the last day of December, MDCCLVI. in the LXX year of his age. There also lieth the body of Eliza his widow, only daughter of Arthur Stanhope, Esq. who departed this life on the XXX. day of April, MDCCCLIX. in the LXXIV year of her age.

“ Their eldest son Evelyn Philip Shirley, erected this humble memorial of his undying love, Anno Domini MDCCCXIV.”

In the cloister adjoining to the chapel are two curious boats carved out of solid oak found in the neighbouring lakes.

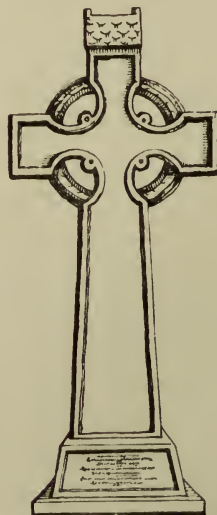
The gardens are laid out in the formal style

with terraces, straight walks, and yew hedges, Here is a fine specimen of *araucaria imbricata*, planted in 1843, and many other interesting and rare trees and shrubs ; here also is a large vase admirably carved in free-stone by a native artist. Folding gates, elaborately executed in iron, divide the garden from the vista, also laid out in terraces, and cut through the “ Home wood ; ” this leads to the Chase, stocked with fallow deer in 1858, a picturesque and wild district of rocky limestone pasture, and so called from “ the right of chase,” which was granted together with many other exceptional privileges by Queen Elizabeth to Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex, in the year 1576. On the highest ground of the vista is the monumental cross of native dove-coloured marble, erected to the memory of the late Mr. Shirley by the tenantry of the Farney Estate ; it is twenty-seven feet in height, and bears the following inscription at the base :—

*Lough Fea.*

“ TO THE GLORY OF GOD,  
AND THE MEMORY OF EVELYN JOHN SHIRLEY, ESQ.  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE AT LOUGH FEA HOUSE  
ON THE 31ST OF DECEMBER, 1856,

THIS CROSS,  
THE EMBLEM OF OUR SALVATION,  
IS ERECTED BY THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION  
OF THE TENANTRY OF THE SHIRLEY ESTATE,  
IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF  
A KIND-HEARTED LANDLORD,  
WHO, DURING A PERIOD OF NEARLY 50 YEARS,  
DID MUCH TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF HIS TENANTRY,  
AND BY HIS RESIDENCE AMONGST THEM  
HAS BEQUEATHED TO HIS DESCENDANTS  
THE PRACTICAL LESSON,  
THAT PROPERTY HAS ITS DUTIES  
AS WELL AS ITS RIGHTS.”



LOUGH FEA.

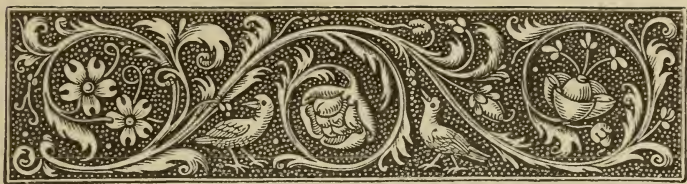
1870.



*London: privately printed,*

1870.





## LOUGH FEA.

### I.



URROUNDED by low swelling hills, a  
crystal lake serene,  
'Midst moss-grown rocks and alder woods,<sup>1</sup>  
and fring'd with rushes green,<sup>2</sup>

No signs of man once visible, no buildings raised on  
high,

No roads or fences angular prove habitation nigh,  
Yet man was there; and forrays wild, oft hurl'd destruction  
fore,

On rival clans and rival chiefs, upon that peaceful  
shore:

The Irish records prove the fact, few other facts they  
tell,

Than rapine, murder, violence, which annually befell.

*Lough Fea.*

## II.

Above the lake there yet remains fure signs of struggles past,  
 Crowning each hill and vantage ground, high forts, the which  
 shall last

As long as earth itself—till Doomſday's awful term,  
 So ſtrong thoſe earthen citadels, ſo deeply fix'd and firm !  
 The tell-tale peat, the drainer's work, full oft diſcloſe the time  
 When neighbours fought continually, revenge was thought  
 no crime ;

Stone implements are oft turn'd up, the Bronze and Iron age,  
 More recent, but of ancient date, all proofs of deadly rage.

## III.

Then Farney's chiefs in Crannoges<sup>3</sup> lived, ſcorning both liſ<sup>4</sup>  
 and hill,

Secure thoſe faſtneſſes were thought from internecine ill ;  
 Like ſavages of modern times, but ſtill ſome trace is found  
 Of ancient art of various kinds, long buried under ground,  
 Cauldrons of graceful ſhape of bronze, ſpear-heads of rare  
 deſign,

A multitude of ornaments, of gold, both pure and fine ;  
 Of later date the Holy Croſs, mixed with theſe relics old,  
 Atteſt the great antiquity of Erin's Chriſtian fold.

## IV.

Since Patrick taught the faith of Christ so many years have fled,  
That some there are who doubt he came, "a myth" is some-  
times said ;

But Farney's pride is "Donaghmoyne,"<sup>5</sup> that very name the test,  
That there the church was built by him, he bless'd that place  
of rest ;

Nor hath the pure Word preach'd by him its ancient spirit lost,  
Though sorely buffeted awhile, 'tween rival factions tofs'd,  
To Patrick still the Church can point, to him her orders trace,  
And through the Saint to the true Rock, the only font of grace.

## V.

But wild the state of Farney's bounds, "The Northern Gap"  
'tis call'd,

When England in second Henry's days the sacred isle  
enthralld ;

The footmarks, since of history, are fix'd on surer base,  
But still the internecine wars the native tribes disgrace ;  
And not the native tribes alone, for Farney's wealth was spent,  
'Twixt English men and Irish septs, a full sore punishment ;  
To still these feuds, and firmer fix England's imperial sway ;  
The castle of Donaghmoyne was built,—a ruin at this day.

*Lough Fea.*

## VI.

'Twas built by Richard Pipard, Lord Baron of Atherdee,  
Against the right he laid those stones on lands of Clogher's fee,<sup>6</sup>  
The bishop when he heard the news, forthwith denounced  
the deed,  
Malgré the thunders of the church, the baron took no heed ;  
In sacred guise the bishop then, the baron to appal,  
Laid himself down among the men who built the castle wall ;  
None dared to touch, although the work no further could  
proceed,  
Till Pipard's froward heart at last his own sad fate decreed.

## VII.

Upon the Bishop's sacred head, he laid his daring hand,  
And drew him forth from out the foss, none could or would  
withstand ;  
But mark the end—for leprosy the wretched Baron smote,  
No sooner had he gain'd the bank, from out the castle moat,  
None of his line or lineage broad Farney's lands possess'd,  
And still that ancient castle is the Bishop's-hold confess'd  
[A warning this to those who now, dare rob the Church's right,  
Cromwell or Gladstone be they call'd, or quaker plain John  
Bright].

## VIII.

It boots not now, nor is there space, the ample lists to write,  
Of those who on this border land kept up a constant fight,  
For Farney was a royal foffee, exposed to every blow,  
Of those call'd "Irish enemies,"<sup>7</sup> an ever numerous foe.  
So ages pass'd, and still the same sad story must be said,  
Of broken peace, of broken vows, of blood and treasure  
shed,  
Nor could fair England hold her own, her power began to  
wane,  
The Saxon, in the middle age, could scarce be said to reign!

## IX.

Mac Mahon's sept, and then O'Neil's, ruled Farney's frontier  
wood,  
Till Leonard Gray at Bellahoe<sup>8</sup> the northern chiefs withstood,  
A transient peace the recompense, but soon O'Neil renews  
His treason to his sovereign Prince in Farney and the Fewes,  
Hence treason's fate—for Shane O'Neil,<sup>9</sup> his life a forfeit paid,  
A fitting end for those who thus on blood and rapine trade;  
The royal crown of England then, regain'd its sovereign sway,  
Henceforth let Celt with Saxon vie, who best that crown  
obey.

*Lough Fea.*

## X.

Elizabeth, the virgin Queen, then reign'd supreme indeed,  
 None dared to enter Farney then, none dared its rents to heed,  
 Till up rose Walter Devereux,<sup>10</sup> the Earl of Essex hight,  
 Cousin to the maiden Queen, of the noble order Knight,  
 And boldly ask'd for Farney's lands, in lieu of labours done,  
 Good service in the field, I trow, and barren honour won ;  
 " Give me," he said, " fair Farney's bounds, few tenants  
     there are left,  
 But what there are shall cherish'd be, my 'rules'<sup>11</sup> shall give  
     them rest."

## XI.

His humble suit accorded is, a horse the annual fee,<sup>12</sup>  
 In memory of this royal gift, and badge of sovereignty,  
 Nor have his heirs his word forgot, " The Irish race to serve,"  
 Nor will they, an they have the power, from that old promise  
     swerve,  
 For justice, which was long unknown, now lights on every head,  
 True liberty at length hath dawn'd, and peace its blessing shed ;  
 Still there were days of violence, ere these good days were  
     come,  
 A castle free and peaceable, ere each could call his home.

## XII.

Let history and its records tell of Essex's northern raid,  
And how at Bally-Annagh-Clint,<sup>13</sup> a hollow peace was made ;  
Then Farney saw its English lord not long before his fall,  
On Tower Hill, "mad enterprize," as some his treason call.  
His children soon restored in blood, the third Earl<sup>14</sup> wisely  
went

To view fair Farney and his lands, on useful actions bent ;  
Improvement hence begins to date, and folk woke up to  
prove

How blest the fruit of industry, of peace and mutual love !

## XIII.

Too short those days of peacefulness, too soon good times  
were past,

The hopeful paths of industry too soon were overcast !

Throughout the realm of Ireland, in every part remote,  
And Rome the movement joining, the Celt the Saxon  
smote ;

Nor was our Farney blameless. But retribution flow,  
And Cromwell's curse resistless, dealt yet an equal blow.

At this sad time of anarchy, in 'midst of social strife,  
Without a son and childless, Lord Essex lost his life.<sup>15</sup>

*Lough Fea.*

## XIV.

Hence Farney's lands divided. That noble lord <sup>16</sup> who stood  
True to his martyr'd sovereign's grave, by many call'd "the  
good,"

To one fair part succeeded, another equal share  
Fell to Sir Robert Shirley's right, with Hertford's lord  
co-heir.

Henceforth advancing slowly, with not unequal tread,  
The east and west of Farney <sup>17</sup> in peaceful paths were led :  
But seldom did the landlords come fair Farney to review,  
Yet cherish'd they the Celtic race, still to Earl Walter true.

## XV.

But time, which worketh wonders, in Farney change hath  
made,

The hostile septs are quiet now, no more the frequent raid ;  
Contests there are of different kinds—who best shall guide the  
plough,

Who best can cultivate the fields and give us "corn enow."  
Instead of acts of violence, the rival Celts now try  
Their prowess on a nobler field, in wholesome rivalry,  
God's gifts to man, how best increase those tokens of His love,  
Such labours are of real worth, a wiser age they prove.

## *Lough Fea.*

II

### XVI.

And still Lough Fea remains the same, still fringed with reeds  
her shore,  
Her alder wooded banks and rocks are as they were of yore ;  
But on the hills a stately house and noble hall is seen,—  
'Twas built by one<sup>18</sup> who own'd these lands, who loved that  
lake serene,  
Who, first of all his family, by residence declared  
He knew his duties and his rights, his tenants' interests shared.  
Long may his memory flourish! long may that cross<sup>19</sup> endure!—  
The grateful tenants' offering for kindness true and pure.







## NOTES.

1, 2.



**A**LDER woods—*Rushes green.* *Lough Fea* means the lake of the rushes, from the rushes which still grow round its shores. Farney, the name of the barony in the county of Monaghan, in which Lough Fea is situated, means the country or plain of the alder trees, which grow naturally in many parts of the barony.

3. *Crannoges*.—Houses built generally on artificial islands on the inland lakes, where the Irish chiefs lived in the north of Ireland during the middle ages.

4. *Lis*.—An earthen fort, as opposed to *Castlen*, a fort of stone.

5. *Donaghmoyne*.—The Dominica or Church of Moyne. Every church whose name begins with *Donagh* is supposed to have been consecrated by St. Patrick.

6. *Clogher's See*.—The Castle of Donaghmoyne was built by Richard Pipard, Baron of Atherdee, or Ardee, about the year 1200, as appears by an ancient transcript of the Register of Clogher, in the British Museum (Add. MSS. 4789, p. 109), on the lands of the See of Clogher, and under the circumstances detailed in the text.

7. *Irish enemies*.—The pure Irish or Celts were so called by the English.

8. *Bellahoe*—The battle of Bellahoe, on the borders of Farney, was fought on the 2nd of December, 1539, between Lord Leonard Gray and the northern chieftains.

9. *Shane O'Neil* was killed in 1567, the Act of Parliament for his attainder was passed in 1569.

10. *Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex*, obtained a grant of the territory or dominion of Farney, dated the 9th of May, 1576; the letter in which he asked the Queen to give him "the little country of Farney," and promised to cherish the inhabitants, is dated the 3rd of June, 1575.

11. *Rules*.—The rule or custom of the estate is an expression well known in the north of Ireland. The "Rules" of the Earl of Essex have been remembered in Farney even within the present century.

12. *A horse the annual fee*.—The dominion of Farney was held as of the Castle of Dublin, by the rent of a horse or twenty marks Irish in free soccage.

13. *Annagh-clint*, on the borders of Farney on the Lagan; this was the site of the celebrated interview between Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex, and Hugh Earl of Tyrone, on the 6th of September, 1599.

14. *The third earl*.—Robert Devereux, Third Earl of Essex, visited Ireland in the latter part of the reign of James I., when he built the castle at Carrickmacross, called Essex Castle.

15. Robert Devereux, third Earl of Essex, died, *s. p.* September 14, 1646.

16. *That noble lord*.—William Seymour, Marquis of Hertford, and afterwards Duke of Somerset.

17. *The east and west of Farney*.—The eastern moiety of the Barony of Farney belongs to the Marquis of Bath in right of the Duchess of Somerset, the eldest daughter of Robert second Earl of Essex. The western is the property of Evelyn Philip Shirley, Esq., the representative of the younger daughter, the Lady Dorothy Shirley.

18. *Built by one*.—By the late Evelyn John Shirley, Esq., between 1826 and 1841.

19. *That cross*.—The cross erected to the memory of the late Evelyn John Shirley, Esq., by his Irish tenantry. He died December 31, 1856.



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